United Nations S/2013/155

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 March 2013
English
Original: Arabic

# Identical letters dated 13 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the report of the Secretary-General dated 27 February 2013 on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) (S/2013/120). That report deals with a number of matters of concern to the Syrian Arab Republic that fall outside the mandate specified in the resolution, which was originally adopted in order to address the consequences of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and monitor the continual, daily violations by Israel of the sovereignty of that country. I should therefore like to affirm the following points:

1. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic yet again affirms its respect for Lebanese sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence. At the same time, it underlines that the pertinent Lebanese authorities must take action to prevent the infractions that are carried out by armed terrorist groups, with the support of well-known political parties in Lebanon, with a view to destabilizing Syria and undertaking terrorist operations on its territory. The Government declares its readiness to cooperate with the Lebanese authorities in preventing those activities, which violate both Syrian and Lebanese sovereignty. It would also like to draw attention to the fact that resolution 1701 (2006) calls for the report of the Secretary-General to focus on monitoring the daily Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty and that clear and sincere demands should therefore be made for those violations to cease, insofar as they contravene Security Council resolutions and, in particular, resolution 1701 (2006), with the implementation of which the report is concerned, rather than pursuing allegations that do not fall within the scope of the resolution.

2. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic would like to stress the risks inherent in ignoring the activities of the armed terrorist groups that operate from Lebanese territory with the support of extremist and Salafist political factions in Lebanon, and affirm that such activities represent a threat to stability in both the fraternal countries of Syria and Lebanon. Against that background, the Syrian Government rejects the attempts made in the report to hold Syria responsible for the violent incidents that have taken place in the border areas, which have targeted civilians on both sides of the border as well as Syrian Army personnel, while ignoring documented incidents when armed terrorists have infiltrated Syrian territory with a view to attacking Syrian Army personnel. Several terrorists have been killed in the course of such incidents and their bodies handed over to the

Lebanese authorities. Syria underlines that when little importance is given to such incidents or to the official Lebanese reports on the unceasing flow into Syria of fighters and smuggled arms, and no attention is paid to the inflammatory statements that are made by certain politicians who are attached to a political movement in Lebanon that is well-known for its support for terrorism in Syria, questions are raised as to the credibility of the information in the report and the reliability of its sources. That is particularly so when the report discusses the involvement of Hizbullah personnel in the events that are taking place in Syria, ignoring the dismissal by the Syrian Government and Hizbullah leadership of those spurious allegations, which lack all credibility and are spread by Lebanese political parties that are well-known for their extremism, with the intention of misleading and distracting attention from their support for terrorism and involvement in smuggling fighters and arms into Syria.

3. The report repeats hackneyed allegations regarding the transfer of weapons to Hizbullah. It is surprising that the Secretariat should persist in raising such claims, which are propagated by Israel in order to avoid its responsibility under Security Council resolutions. The Secretariat acknowledges that it does not have the means to verify the claims, so it is unusual that they continue to be raised in reports of the Secretary-General. It is also surprising that the drafters of the report continue to give weight to the pronouncements of members of the Israeli Government claiming that "the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic intended to transfer advanced weapons systems and, potentially, non-conventional weapons to Hizbullah". Such references to alleged intentions are part of a misinformation campaign launched by Israel to justify its aggressive policy towards Syria. The Syrian Government has refuted the claims, particularly those concerning chemical weapons, in numerous letters to the Security Council and the Secretary-General. At the same time, it has gone unnoticed that Israel has acquired nuclear weapons, rejected the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and, with support from its allies in the United States of America, thwarted international efforts to convene a conference on the establishment of such a zone. It is worth recalling that Syria supports ridding the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction, and affirmed that position in a draft resolution submitted to the Security Council in 2003.

4. Syria reiterates its position that, under international law, the delineation of the border between Syria and Lebanon is an issue of sovereignty that is governed by the nature of the bilateral relations and the common wishes of the two countries. It further reiterates that the continuation of the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan and the Shab'a Farms hinders the delineation of the borders in that area, and once again demands that Israel withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan and the occupied Lebanese territories.

I should be grateful if this letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative